

We Claim:

1. A method for charging for services or content in a communications network, which comprises the steps of:

a user signing on to the communications network only once;

the user requesting a service or the content from a service provider;

performing a check in the communications network at a request of the service provider for ascertaining whether the service provider will be able to charge the user; and

enabling a provision of the service or the content on completion of the check.

2. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises binding a reservation of an amount due to the service provider.

3. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises sending a non-binding advisory concerning successful checking of charging to the service provider.

4. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises confirming, through the service provider, a delivery of the service or the content.

5. The method according to claim 4, which further comprises providing a confirmation of service delivery received within a pre-specified period of time.

6. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises authorizing, via the user, an amount reserved for the service.

7. A device in a communications network, the device comprising:

means for authenticating and authorizing;

means for rendering payment; and

means for communicating with a user and with external service providers, the user having previously signed on once only in the communications network, and a service or content can be requested from a service provider by the user via said means for communicating, and after a request to do so by the service provider, a check being performed by said means for authenticating and authorizing to ascertain whether the

service provider will be able to duly charge the user for the service or content.